Kim Johnstone
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Research profile
Kim is a PhD candidate enrolled at ADSRI and based in Darwin at ANU’s North Australian Research Unit (NARU). Her research is focused on Indigenous fertility change in the Northern Territory, with a particular focus on the past 20 years - a period for which births registration and hospital data have been collected by Indigenous status. A significant focus of the research is investigating the reliability of the births data and exploring the best way to understand trends over time when population data are subject to changing undercount. Despite the NT having among the best Indigenous births data in Australia, there are significant data constraints that affect our understanding of fertility change. The outstanding feature of contemporary Indigenous fertility in the NT is the extremely young age at which women become mothers but relatively low total fertility. This research explores timing, spacing and quantum of children over a 20-year period, and investigates how these have changed, and why. Interviews and focus groups are used to support the analytical approach taken for the research, and to illustrate changes over time in women’s own families.

Kim’s supervisors are Ann Evans (ADSRI), Rebecca Kippen (ADSRI), John Taylor (CAEPR) and Len Smith (ADSRI). The research began in August 2007, and is supported by an ANU PhD scholarship.

Publications during candidature


Conference papers and presentations during candidature


